

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 AID-05

OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /099 W

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R 241247Z AUG 76

FM AMEBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7915

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

USLO PEKING

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CORRECTED COPY-MRN 12429 VICE 12499

EOH11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, BT

SUBJ: BHUTAN: INDIA REFUSES ENTRY PERMITS: COMMENTS
ON BANGLADESH

REF: NEW DELHI 3946

1. REFTEL REPORTED THAT SINCE MID-1975 THE GOI
INCREASED ITS EFFORTS TO LIMIT BHUTAN'S ACCESS TO
FOREIGN (NON-INDIAN) TECHNICIANS THROUGH ITS CONTROL
OF THE REQUIRED "INNER LINE" TRANSIT PERMITS. ACCORDING
TO AN OFFICER OF THE ROYAL BHUTAN MISSION HERE, THE
GOI CONTINUES ITS ANTIPATHY TOWARDS FOREIGN TECHNI-
CIANS' WORKING IN BHUTAN. RECENTLY THE GOI DENIED
ICAO TECHNICIANS ENTRY PRMITS, WHICH THE BHUTANESE
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EMBOFF INTERPRETS AS INDICATIVE OF A GOI POLICY

AGAINST BHUTAN'S DEVELOPING ITS AVIATION FACILITIES.
THE GOI, HE SAID, DOES NOT WANT A LOT OF PLANES
FLYING AROUND IN WHAT IT REGARDS AS AN AREA IMPORTANT
TO ITS SECURITY.

2. OUR BHUTANESE SOURCE SAID THAT IN JULY THE GOI
DENIED SEVERAL BRITISH GOVERNMENT SPONSORED SCHOOL
TEACHERS ENTRY PERMITS. THE BRITISH HAVE COMPLAINED
TO THE GOI, BUT THE BHUTANESE DOES NOT THINK THAT THE
GOI WILL REVERSE ITSELF.

3. THE BHUTANESE ATTITUDE CONTINUES TO BE ONE OF
PHILOSOPHIC RESIGNATION TO THE FACT THAT IT IS AT
THE GOI'S MERCY ON THIS ISSUE. THEY ARE, HOWEVER,
CONCERNED THAT THE GOI POLICY COULD UNDERMINE THE
UNDP'S ENTIRE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR BHUTAN.

4. ASKED TO COMMENT ABOUT BANGLADESH ACCUSATIONS OF
INDIAN-AIDED INCURSIONS, THE BHUTANESE EMBOFF (WHO
WAS THE KING'S CONTROL OFFICER WHEN HE PASSED
THROUGH INDIA ON HIS WAY TO COLOMBO) SAID THAT HE
THOUGHT THE INDIANS WERE INDEED HARASSING THE BDG.
HE DESCRIBED INDIA'S NEIGHBORS AS LIVING IN THE
SHADOW OF A GIANT WHO COULD HURT THEM WHEN IT
STIRRED TO SCRATCH ITSELF. AT NO TIME DID HE ALLUDE
TO INDIA'S "GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY" PRAISED BY HIS
KING AT THE COLOMBO NAC.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, TRAVEL CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 AUG 1976
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NEWDE12429
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760325-0005
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760826/aaaaavnp.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 NEW DELHI 3946
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BHUTAN: INDIA REFUSES ENTRY PERMITS: COMMENTS ON BANGLADESH
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, PINS, BT, IN, BG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006